

REMARKS:

Claims 1-47 are currently pending. New claims 45-47 are added.

Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1, 4, 21, 22, 28, 32, 33-38, 40, 41, and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,143,825 to Beren et al. ("Beren Patent"). Applicants traverse these rejections.

The Beren patent does not teach functionalized blends as recited in the pending claims. For example, Applicants independent claim 1 recites an adhesive composition composed of a blend that is functionalized. The blend includes C₃ to C₄₀ olefin polymers and at least one additive.

In contrast to the claimed subject matter, the Beren patent teaches a multi-component adhesive that includes only one grafted component, i.e., the so-called "third component" or "modified propylene polymer". Although the Beren patent describes an adhesive composition that includes a grafted "third component", the adhesive composition does *not* include a functionalized blend as recited in applicants pending claims because: (a) the multi-component composition is *not* functionalized, and (b) the grafted "third component" is not a blend, which is functionalized. The "third component" is prepared by grafting a propylene with an unsaturated compound having a polar group, and thus, not a blend.

Moreover, the Beren patent does not teach a functionalized blend that includes a "branchy" polymer component. Applicants' claimed functionalized blend includes a polymer having a branching index of less than 0.98. Although the Beren patent teaches a component having a branching index, i.e., the "high melt strength polymer", this component is not functionalized as recited in the pending claims.

Further, the grafted polymer is not present in the quantities recited in new claims 45-47.

Withdrawal of these rejections and allowance of claims 1, 4, 21, 22, 28, 32, 33-38, 40, 41, and 44 are respectfully requested.

Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Beren patent in view of International Publication No. WO 2003/033612 to Wang et al. ("Wang

Publication”) or U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0007033 to Karandinos et al. (“Karandinos publication”). Applicants traverse these rejections.

Neither the Beren patent, the Wang Publication, nor the Karandinos Publication, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest adhesive compositions composed of functionalized blends as recited in the pending claims.

As described above, the Beren patent does not teach or suggest adhesive compositions composed of functionalized blends. Neither the Wang publication nor the Karandinos publication cure these deficiencies. Although the Wang publication describes blends of syndiotactic polypropylene and amorphous polypropylene, there is no teaching or suggestion of functionalizing the blended formulation.

Similarly to the Wang publication, the Karandinos publication does not teach or suggest functionalizing blends. The Patent Office’s previously submitted Notice Of Allowance mailed September 27, 2007 admits “the polymers disclosed in the prior art of KARANDINOS are not functionalized.” See Reasons for Allowance, p.4.

One skilled in the art would not be motivated to achieve adhesive formulations recited in the pending claims based on the teaching or suggestion of the Beren patent, the Wang Publication, nor the Karandinos Publication because the formulations taught by these references are, perforce, different from those recited by Applicants. Therefore, it would not be obvious to one skilled in the art to achieve the recited adhesive compositions composed of functionalized blends.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that the foregoing is a full and complete response to the pending Office Action. Accordingly, an early and favorable reconsideration of the rejection, and allowance of pending claims 1-47 are requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge counsel's Deposit Account No. 05-1712, for any fees, including extension of time fees and excess claim fees, required to make this response timely and acceptable to the Office.

Respectfully,

Date: /April 4, 2008/

/Stephen Timmins/
Stephen Timmins
Registration No. 48,481

Post Office Address (to which correspondence is to be sent):
ExxonMobil Chemical Company
Law Technology
P.O. Box 2149
Baytown, Texas 77522-2149
Telephone No. (281) 834-2866
Facsimile No. (281) 834-2495